1. Report No. UT 03.01	2. Government Accession No. 3. R	Recipient's Catalog No.	
4. Title and Subtitle	5. Report Date: April 2002		
Utah Rockfall Hazards Inventory – Phase I	6. Performing Organization Code		
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9. Performing Organization Name and Address	10. Work Unit No.		
Utah State University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering 4110 Old Main Hill Logan, UT 84322-4110	11. Contract No. 029025		
12. Sponsoring Agency Name and Address	13. Type of Report and Period Covered		
Utah Department of Transportation Research Division 4501 South 2700 West Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-8410	14. Sponsoring Agency Code		

15. Supplementary Notes

16. Abstract

The road network within the state of Utah is contained within a diverse suite of terrain, which in some areas presents substantial rockfall and slope stability hazards. With projected future increases to the traffic load on Utah's roads in mind, a project was initiated to implement a rockfall hazard investigation statewide. An existing model used by the Oregon Department of Transportation during the mid 1980s known as the Rockfall Hazard Rating System (RHRS) was adopted as a starting point for developing a program in Utah. During the summer of 2001, Phase I of the RHRS was conducted statewide in order to classify roadside rock slopes into three categories in order to prioritize them for future study. Over 1099 rock slopes were inspected in the field. A total of 479 slopes were given a rating of A (immediate potential for rockfall danger), 569 slopes were classified as B (moderate rockfall potential), and 51 slopes were ultimately rated as C (low potential for rockfall) based on RHRS criteria. Following the completion of these field ratings, a GIS database was constructed for all A & B-rated rock slopes statewide and includes basic descriptions, locations, and photographs of the slopes.

17. Key Words rockfall, hazards, inventory		18. Distribution Statement Available: UDOT Research Division Box 148410 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-8410 www.dot.utah.gov/res	
19. Security Classification (of this report) N/A	20. Security Classification (of this page) N/A	21. No. of Pages 90	22. Price